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opening for releasably attaching a cartridge containing [a measured aliquot] said known quantity of antimicrobial solution.

21. (Amended) [The device of claim 20] A device for enhancing solution vapor sterilization of the lumen of a medical instrument, said device comprising a vessel for containing an antimicrobial solution, and means for connecting said vessel to the end of said lumen to provide antimicrobial vapor directly to the lumen during the solution vapor sterilization said device being sealed from the ambient atmosphere except through said means for connecting and containing a known quantity of antimicrobial solution wherein said means for connecting said vessel to the end of the lumen comprises an expandable sheath, one end of which is securely attached about an opening in the vessel, and the other end of which comprises an elastic ring for releasable attachment about the end of the instrument including the lumen.

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed under a Certificate of Mailing as indicated and an appropriate Request for Extension of Time accompanies this Amendment, also filed under Certificate of Mailing as does an appropriate Notice of Appeal.

Claims 12-16 and 21-22 were objected to in the final Office Action. The present amendments merely place those claims in independent form in order to remove them as any issue for appeal. It is believed that in this form they are allowable.

Claim 17 has been amended in order to make it independent as well as clarify that the antimicrobial solution is the known quantity of antimicrobial solution. This is to limit the issues on appeal. This would prevent the indefiniteness of whether the solution contained in the language of Claim 17 was the same or a different antimicrobial solution than that called for in the base claim. It will be argued that the claim does further limit its

base claim by adding another volume in communication with the main device. However, that second volume is still not open to the ambient atmosphere, and therefore the claim is definite as the vessel of the main device is not open to the ambient atmosphere, but rather merely to the second portion provided for in Claim 17 and noted as a cartridge containing said known quantity of antimicrobial solution. It is believed in this form the claim is allowable as not being indefinite, or in the alternative, is more clear for the appeal. That is, the issues surrounding Claim 17 are more clearly defined by this amendment.

It is respectfully submitted that the amendment of Claims 12-16 and 21-22 is merely a change of form and therefore removes these claims as issues during the appeal and should be entered. It is also respectfully submitted that the amendment to Claim 17 should be entered as reducing the issues for appeal. It is respectfully requested that even if the Examiner does not believe that the amendment to Claim 17 reduces the issues for appeal, that the remaining amendments be entered and that the present amendment be entered in part prior to the appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

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